

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

In the Matter of:  
Valley Falls, Post Office, Cumberland Rhode Island, 02864

Docket No: A2011-18

Petitioner(s) Derrick Watson, Concerned Citizens of Valley Falls SOPO

Additional Information-Proof of misleading the residents of Valley Falls

Attached is an article that appeared in the Providence Journal that reported on the USPS April 6, 2011, Community Meeting in Valley Falls. This article documents how the USPS attempted to mislead the residents of Valley Falls with regard to the proposed closing of the Valley Falls Post Office. The USPS is quoted as saying the USPS was still only considering the post office closure when it actually had signed its Final Determination on February 11, 2011



## Rhode Island news

# Cumberland residents rally in support of their 'little post office'

01:00 AM EDT on Saturday, April 9, 2011

By Michael P. McKinney

Journal Staff Writer



**The U.S. Postal Service is expected to make a decision in 30 to 60 days on the future of the Valley Falls post office, above, in Cumberland.**

The Providence Journal / Glenn Osmundson

CUMBERLAND — One after another, they spoke in defense of their “little post office.”

Its architecture is unremarkable, no Corinthian columns out front or gargoyle sculptures, but it means something more to the 25 or so people who turned out Wednesday afternoon at Town

Hall, most of them telling Postal Service officials to keep open the red-brick branch at 197 Broad St.

It is currently the only post office in Rhode Island being considered for closing.

Mike Powers, the southeastern postal district manager, said the Postal Service intends to offer the same service to the public but has responsibility to be more efficient for the American public at a time when the service has experienced millions of dollars in financial loss nationally. The number of people coming in and the revenue at the Valley Falls branch, he said, have fallen significantly in recent years — a revenue shortfall of 20 percent. **He said postal officials would take the public's input into consideration and that a decision could come in 30 to 60 days.**

Powers said there is more than enough room for post office boxes that would be transferred to the Diamond Hill office.

People who spoke said the Broad Street office is much closer to where they live and do business than the town's other post office, on Diamond Hill Road. They questioned why Cumberland needed to lose a post office while other places don't — they mentioned neighboring Lincoln, which has three. They said consolidating everyone to the Diamond Hill Road office would create a parking mess. Some felt, from their experiences, that the Broad Street office has a steady stream of customers. And others felt that if a post office must be closed, the Postal Service should look elsewhere, perhaps in one or another of the communities near Cumberland.

Resident Derrick Watson described the Broad Street office in terms of his livelihood. His eBay shipping business, he said, means he is sending things out six days a week and sometimes twice a day from the convenient post office branch. He brought with him a petition that he told Powers had many signatures in favor of keeping the post office branch.

One woman said she had no car and no nearby bus stop. She walks — and the walk to Diamond Hill would be a long one, she said.

[mmckinne@projo.com](mailto:mmckinne@projo.com)